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May 8, 2002

Secretary of Commerce for
Intellectual Property and
Director of the USPTO
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attn: Ronald Hack
Deputy Chief Information Office
for Information Technology Services

Gentlemen:

I note that the PTO proposes to eliminate the paper patent and trademark registration collections from its search facilities, and that a hearing thereon has been scheduled for May 16, 2002.

I have no intention to speak at this hearing. However, I am writing to endorse the proposed elimination.

For nearly 28 years, I have opposed the elimination of the paper trademark search records until the reliability of the electronic files had been demonstrated. I believe that time has now come.

For the last ten (10) years, I have relied primarily on the search reports of Thomson and Thomson and Corsearch, which, in turn, are based on the electronic data received from the Trademark Office. With minor exceptions, the electronic records have proven to be reliable. As matters now stand, they are more reliable than the paper records.

Having worked with the paper trademark search records in the Trademark Office for over 44 years, it is with some sadness that I will see their demise. On the other hand, I applaud the Trademark Office for waiting until its electronic records at least were as accurate as the paper records before eliminating the paper records.

Very truly yours,

Henry W. Leeds

HWL:fm

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cc: Robert M. Anderson, Commissioner for Trademarks